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Monday, Nov. 3, 1997

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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Final candidates for Hoopeston Area school board discuss issues

Editor's Note: Eleven people are running for four seats on the Hoopeston Area school board in the Nov. 4 election.

For these interviews, candidates were asked why they chose to run, what issues face the district, and their opinions on consolidation and drug testing.

The local economy could have a major impact on Hoopeston Area schools, said board candidate **Scott Crose**.

Crose, 37, a plumber/pipe fitter, returned to Hoopeston after living in Plainfield. He decided to run for the board because he was "looking to get involved in the community. I thought I could do a good job, so I decided to run," he said.

School Elections '97

Crose, who has two children in Hoopeston Area grade schools, said his age would be an asset to the board. "I think I have a lot of fresh ideas," he said.

Money is the biggest issue facing the district, he said. "We're in good shape now, but with state cutbacks and with factories cutting back, that will make a difference," he said.

Crose said all areas of the district - academics, as well as the music and sports programs - are good and ways must be found to keep quality when budget cuts become necessary.

Consolidation "may be a sore subject," but it is one
See CANDIDATES on other side

Briefly

Multi Agency van schedule

This week's van schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is: Monday, Hoopeston shuttle; Tuesday, Champaign (leave at 9 a.m.); Wednesday Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, Danville.

For more information or to arrange a ride, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

Activities at the center this week include: Monday, ladies bridge, noon; Thursday, men's coffee, 9:30 a.m.; Friday, unemployed discount program 1-3 p.m.

Neighborhood Watch

The Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the municipal building.

Members of the Hoopeston Fire Department will give tips on fire safety.

Middle school PTO meeting

The Hoopeston Area Middle School PTO will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3 in the school library.

Coats, shoes needed

The Hoopeston Multi Agency needs coats and shoes for area disadvantaged children. Items may be taken to the agency, 206 S. First Ave., between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Meetings

The Hoopeston city council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the municipal building. The meeting is open to the public.

Music Booster winners

Winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster drawing were not available at press time.

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Scott Crose

for

Hoopeston Area School Board
on Nov. 4

Candidates

Hoopeston Area and other districts must look at, he said. Rossville-Alvin “doesn’t seem to want to come up here and I don’t know why,” Crose said, adding he would try to find ways to talk with leaders of that district.

As for drug testing, Crose said it is an issue that should be looked at, not only for students, but teachers as well. “If somebody’s teaching my kid, they shouldn’t be doing drugs,” he said. Athletes “shouldn’t be doing drugs or alcohol,” he said, adding he would push for random testing.

The final two candidates in the 11-person race disagree with other candidates about drug testing.

Oscar “Buddy” Young, 46, has “a personal aversion to random drug testing. It can be used as a serious weapon in the wrong hands,” he said.

Being against such a policy does not mean he condones

drug use, Young said. “Nobody wants drugs,” he said. “I’m not condoning drugs, (I’m) condoning the right not to have your privacy invaded.”

The biggest issue facing the district, he said, is money. “I’m sure that’s an issue facing every board in the country,” he said.

The district must be able to adapt to issues that will arise in the future, such as consolidation and funding changes, he said, adding his work background gives him experience in those areas.

A shift supervisor at Silgan Containers, Young said he has had to adjust to changing conditions at work and will bring that knowledge to the district. “I think that will help the board in the future,” he said.

Young, who has children in the system, decided to run because of the number of openings and because “I

thought maybe it was time for me to be out there,” he said. “I feel qualified to do this job. You need some people with open minds who are willing to listen to ideas and get things done.”

The final candidate, **Larry Lobb**, also disagrees with a drug testing policy. “It’s an invasion,” he said. “You’re guilty until proven innocent.”

Should a program be implemented, Lobb said it should be for teachers and students. “In some ways, I’d rather make sure the teachers are drug-free more than the students,” he said. “You can’t go in there and segregate.”

Lobb said he is unsure the local drug problem is severe enough to warrant testing. “If drugs become a prevailing problem, then we’ll have to look at something,” he said. “I hope we don’t have to come to that. I don’t want us to become a police state.”

Also, any program must have a rehabilitation component included. “There must be some way of getting these people help,” he said.

Regarding consolidation, Lobb said the issue is “on the back burner. I don’t think we should push the issue,” he said.

Lobb said the district, now in a “healthy financial situation,” has no looming issues. “We have to keep the quality programs we have and improve what we can,” he said. “We’re probably the envy of many, many school districts in the area.”

Lobb, a 29-year Hoopeston math teacher, now teaches math part time at Danville Area Community College. He has spend 48 of his 54 years involved in schools as either a student or a teacher, and a parent of students. “It gives me a unique perspective on things,” he said.

“(Residents) trusted me for 29 years to educate their children,” he said. “Now I’m asking them to trust me for four years on the board.”

★ Police News ★

Two bicycles were found and turned in to police last week.

A boy’s black Huffy mountain bicycle, with yellow forks, was found Thursday at the Hoopeston Public Library.

A girl’s 20-inch five-speed purple and black Kent Street Craze bicycle was found Friday in the Ten Pin Alley parking lot.

Both may be identified and claimed at the police station.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 5:23 p.m. Friday at 313 E. Penn.

Police said a 1995 Buick LeSabre, driven by Ruth Ravens, 902 Sprague, sideswiped a parked 1979 Chevrolet owned by Eric W. Larken, 311 E. Penn.

Johnathon J. Miles, 32, Hoopeston, was arrested twice over the weekend, charged with battery both times.

Police said Miles was arrested at 6 p.m. Friday on a complaint from James W. Kostecka, 841 E. Seminary, following an altercation at Main Street Inn.

The second arrest came at 3:20 p.m. Saturday on a complaint from Mark A. Hewitt, 508 S. Fifth St. Police said Hewitt reported Miles had hit and threatened him.

Miles was released on a notice to appear on the first incident and was released on \$100 cash bond on the second.

Jose A. Cardenas Jr., 22, of 406 E. Main, was arrested at 11:17 p.m. Friday, charged with driving on a suspended license, driving with a suspended registration, operation of an uninsured motor vehicle and illegal transportation of alcohol.

Police said Cardenas,arrested after a traffic stop in the alley of the 200 block of East Main, was released on \$100 bond.

Two unidentified men will pay to have a car repaired after their wrestling match dented a car hood.

Police said a fight was reported Saturday at the Coffee Cup on Route 1. Two men said they were “wrestling around,” police said, adding the wrestling dented the hood of a car owned by Bill Lovell, #36 Parkview Court.

Geneva Nelson, 620 E. Young, reported Saturday that someone tried to pry her garage door open, damaging the door opener.

Jesuse Salina, 41, of Grulla, Tex., was arrested at 1 p. m. Saturday following an accident at 509 E. Wyman.

Police said Salina backed a 1996 Chevrolet into a 1993 Ford Taurus driven by Selda Lopez, #6 Parkview Court.

No tickets were issued, but Salina was arrested on a Vermilion County traffic warrant.

Salina was released on \$100 bond.

Morgan Allen Jr., no age listed, of 511 S. Victoria, Donovan, was arrested at 8:45 p.m. Saturday, charged with operating an uninsured vehicle, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, failure to report an accident to police and driving while license suspended or revoked.

Police said Allen was arrested after he backed his 1975 Chevrolet truck into a 1986 Buick owned by Leo M. Newman, 3577 N. 770 E. Rd., Rossville, which was

Obituaries

MELIN - Andrew C. Melin Sr., 85, of Bowling Green, Ind., formerly of Hoopeston, died at 4:20 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30, 1997, at Clay County Community Hospital, Brazil, Ind. Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Anthony Catholic Church. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home.

Weather ❄️

Cloudy and cold today with a chance of flurries. High 40. Tonight, chance of flurries. Low 26. Tomorrow, partly cloudy, warmer. High 43, low 31.

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Classifieds

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Vote for

LARRY LOBB

School Board Member

Hoopeston Area District 11

November 4, 1997

I would ask that you place the same trust in me now that you did for 29 years as you, your children or your grandchildren went through my classroom. I believe that almost 2,000 students have been educated by me in various mathematics courses during that time. I always gave 100% to my job as a teacher. I will give you the same effort as a board member the next for years. I will not violate your trust.

Please remember to vote.

Thanks a lot,



Family:

- Married 30 years to Priscilla, a teacher at Maple School
- Children are David, 27, and Debbie, 29.

Education:

- B.S. in Education at Eastern Illinois University.
- M.S. in Education from University of Illinois

Work Experience:

- Taught math at Hoopeston Area High School 29 years.
- Took early retirement in 1994.
- Presently teaching at Danville Area Community College part time.
- Worked 12 years at Joan of Arc in the Quality Assurance department.

Career

Achievements:

- Voted 'Teacher of the Year', 1992
- Received an Award of Excellence from Illinois Math and Science Academy, 1991
- Received Teacher Advocate Award from Illinois Education Association, 1992

Community Involvement:

- St. Anthony's Catholic Church member, presently serving on Parish Council and Finance Committee.
- American Legion Member
- National Education Association Lifetime Member